



# EMC News

May 6, 2003

Volume 10, No.3

## EARTH DAY

The EMC's information on Burn Barrels was well received at the EarthDay celebration in DeWitt Park on April 27th. Dioxin Man simulated the creation of dioxin and other chemicals using ordinary household trash and a burn barrel. Many people were unaware that burning only paper also produces dioxins, due to the chlorine content of bleached paper. One man, who gathered up copies of all our printed information, said he was taking them back to his home in Indonesia, where open burning at landfills is a huge environmental problem.

On April 14, Von Hernandez, from the Philippines, was awarded one of six 2003 Goldman Environmental Prizes for his battle against waste incineration and for his role in educating the population about the dangers of burning refuse. Von Hernandez has spent almost a decade battling waste incineration in his native Philippines, an effort that led to his country becoming the first in the world to adopt a nationwide ban on incineration. As our burn barrel information is being disseminated in Indonesia, we should take inspiration from our local attempts towards improving the environment, as they can have far reaching affects.

- Submitted by Steve Nicholson

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

On the brisk and sunny Sunday morning of April 27<sup>th</sup> EMC members and friends gathered for our first clean-up of the year on the EMC's adopted section of highway located on Route 13 between Warren Road and Route 366. Special thanks to everyone for two hours of time well spent: Kenny Christianson and his son also named Kenny, Barbara Ebert, Joyce Gerbasi, Dan Lamb, Heather McDaniel and guest David Filiberto, and Steve Nicholson. We completed 1.3 miles of our two-mile section.

- Submitted by Heather McDaniel

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY - .7 MILES TO GO!!

We need your help. Do your part to help keep the EMC's adopted highway clean. **When?** May 14<sup>th</sup> (before the EMC meeting!) from 5:00 to 6:30pm. Contact Steve at [scnfish@clarityconnect.com](mailto:scnfish@clarityconnect.com) or Heather at [hdm204@tompkins-co.org](mailto:hdm204@tompkins-co.org) for meeting place and details.

## COUNTY CHARTER INCLUDES EMC (adopted 4/1/03) Section 10.03 County Environmental Management Council.

There shall be an Environmental Management Council (EMC) whose members are appointed by the Tompkins County Legislature, and that will receive administrative assistance through the Planning Department. The EMC shall have the authority to draft bylaws for approval by the Tompkins County Legislature, elect officers from its membership, and establish committees. Updated copies of bylaws must be kept on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Tompkins County Legislature. The EMC is charged with carrying out the following tasks:

- (a) The Council shall advise the County Legislature, through the appropriate committee of the Legislature, on matters affecting the preservation, development, and use of the natural features and conditions of the County insofar as they have a bearing on environmental quality. The Council shall also consider other matters referred to the Council by the County Legislature or Commissioner of Planning.
- (b) The Council shall develop and conduct programs of public information in the County that shall be designed to foster increased understanding of the nature of environmental problems and issues and their solutions. The Council shall conduct studies, surveys, and inventories, including but not limited to surveys and studies for identification of those open spaces, natural areas, wetlands, and other natural and scenic features which are of a local, County or regional significance and for which records shall be maintained.
- (c) The Council shall recommend ways to improve the coordination and effectiveness of public and private projects and other activities within the County as they affect the natural environment. The EMC should maintain liaison with regional and state environmental planning entities.
- (d) The Council shall prepare and submit an annual report of its activities to the Tompkins County Legislature. The Council shall submit minutes and other pertinent materials to the appropriate committee of the Tompkins County Legislature and the Commissioner of Planning, and correspond as appropriate with officials at the local, state, and national levels.
- (e) When authorized by the County Legislature, the Council may accept by gift, grant, devise, bequest, or otherwise, property both real and personal in the name of the County, as may be necessary to conserve and otherwise properly utilize open spaces and other land and water resources within the boundaries of the County.

## MUNICIPAL REPORTS

*The Towns of Lansing and Newfield and the Village of Cayuga Heights will report in the June EMC News.*